

# BEYOND THE MASK

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## Who Are You?

*Explore  
Your True  
Identity*

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# Who Are You?

*Explore your true identity*

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**BEYOND  
THE  
MASK**

For more about the movie, go to  
<http://www.beyondthefilm.com>

## Introduction

*A healthy identity comes from understanding  
the truth about ourselves.*

One of the deepest yearnings of children is to understand where they came from and the purpose for which they were made. Sadly, many parents can't give their children answers or neglect to help instill the confidence in them that comes from knowing God made each child for a reason. Yet it's vital that Dad and Mom teach their kids who they are and why they are here.

**Who we are:** Scripture says that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Our children need to realize that God created billions of individuals yet gave each one his or her own look, strengths, personality and potential. So we can live in confidence that God doesn't make junk and that each of us is a unique masterpiece of His creative genius.

**Why we are here:** Our ultimate purpose is to love God and love other people. As Jesus put it, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

In this download, you will find age-appropriate activities and discussion questions that can help your children understand what it means to be a priceless creation of God's. No matter their age or stage, your children can know the One who is love and who created them to love.

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## Key Questions

*How were you careful in making your pet?*

*What is one beautiful or special thing about your pet?*

*Would you recognize your pet, even if it wore a mask?*

*What is one special thing about you?*

*Would God recognize you, even if you wore a mask?*

## Key Points

*God made you carefully and beautifully.*

*God is the only one able to create life.*

*He knew what He was doing when He made you.*

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## Preschool Activity

**H**ave a contest to see who can create the best family pet. Give everyone Play-Doh and set a timer. Keep your children working by talking about what you're observing. When the timer rings, let your children show what they have made and describe their creations. Make encouraging comments, such as how carefully they worked on their creatures. But then ask each child, "Why isn't your pet alive?"

Remind your family that God is the only one who can give life to something or someone, and everything God makes is carefully and beautifully created. Explain that God knew what He was doing when He formed your child. Therefore, your child was carefully and beautifully made. Explain the words *carefully* (not hurried or sloppy) and *beautifully* (it makes your heart happy and not sad). Then plan to use those words frequently in the days ahead.

—D'Arcy Maher

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## Key Questions

*How are you different from rocks, trees and animals?*

*Whose image are you made in?  
How do you reflect His image  
so others see God in you?*

*How might your wearing a mask  
fool others about who you are?  
Why won't your wearing  
a mask fool God?*

## Key Points

*Only people are made  
in God's image.*

*Our identity and purpose  
come from God.*

*God made us to love Him  
and reflect who He is.*

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## School-age Activity

**H**ave your child close his eyes as you apply several dots of color to his face using washable markers or eyeliner pencils. Put away the markers and ask him to tell you what colors are on his face and where. Of course, he can't, but it'll be fun watching him try. Now, place him in front of a mirror and ask him to tell you what colors he sees.

Explain to your child that we cannot see our own face; we can only see a reflection of what we look like. This is called an image. When God made us, He made an image, or a reflection, of himself. We're different than any of God's other creations because we alone are made like Him.

When we look in a mirror, we see a reflection of ourselves. The mirror shows us who we are on the outside, but God made us to be a reflection of His nature and image on the inside.

Because of this, He wants us to imitate who He is to others. Although a mirror reflects our physical image, when we love others we reflect who God is. In this way, others see one part of His character through us. The more we love God and other people, the more we are a true reflection of Him.

—Renee Gray-Wilburn

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## Key Questions

*What are some of the wonderful ways in which God created you?*

*God knows all your words, thoughts and actions. Can you hide behind a mask around Him? Explain.*

*Why would it be safer to let your identity rest in God than the masks found in the world?*

*What is one way you were made that you'd like to thank God for?*

## Key Points

*We are a masterpiece of God's creativity.*

*Our identity comes from God.*

*We can thank God for making us.*

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<http://www.beyondthefaceofgod.com>

## Tween Activity

**K**ing David loved God with his whole heart. Did David make mistakes? Yep. Did some of his choices hurt the people around him? Oh yeah. But God had big plans for David. From the time he was a child, David was uniquely gifted to accomplish God's purpose for his life. As a family, watch the video clip by Igniter Media about Psalm 139, which David wrote. You can find it by visiting [ignitermedia.com](http://ignitermedia.com) and typing "Psalm 139" in the search box. Follow along in your Bible as the video plays.

God formed your tweens with special talents, abilities and personality traits. He knows your children intimately and has a great plan for their lives.

—Jesse Florea, *Adventures in Odyssey Clubhouse editor*

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## Key Questions

*In what ways did God make you unique? Tell about a time when you tried to hide who you were behind a mask.*

*In what ways do your peers or do you seek acceptance? What masks do you wear when you do this?*

*Why might you change the way you act around others? (What masks would you need to remove for them to see you?)*

*God loves you and created you for an amazing purpose. What can you do this week to show your confidence in His plan for your life?*

## Key Points

*Our identity and purpose come from God.*

*We are a masterpiece of God's creativity.*

*God made us to love Him and reflect who He is.*

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## Talk With Your Teen

**A** problem I see in many young lives is the struggle to find identity, recognition of one's worth in God's eyes, and understand the extent of His love.

I am reminded of my childhood friend. I lost contact with him after moving to the States. Years later, a mutual friend told me that this person had fallen away from God and had been abusing drugs. My childhood friend had lost the concept of who he was and what God intended for his life.

What can parents do to help? The most important communication you, as a parent, can have with your teen is to speak the simple truth: Your teen is extravagantly loved by God!

—Rebecca St. James

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## Key Questions

*When you feel as if you're not worth as much as others, what mask do you wear?*

*How do your friends show they value you?  
(How do they see beyond your mask?)*

*If you were on display at a collectibles show, how would you describe yourself? (Listen and then read Genesis 1:27 together.)*

*You can't hide behind a mask before God.  
How does God assign value to you?*

## Key Points

*Our identity and purpose come from God.*

*We are a masterpiece of God's creativity.*

*God made us to love Him and  
reflect who He is.*

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## Your Child's Identity

**D**ani's mother would drag her to thrift stores and antique shops in search of collectibles and other treasures. Whenever her mom would look at a price tag, she would ask Dani, "And what are you worth?"

Well trained by the ritual, Dani would respond, "I'm priceless because God made me."

Through everyday conversations, you can instill a healthy spiritual identity in your children by reinforcing that they are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Valuing God's workmanship is foundational to a child's healthy self-image.

Together make a list of the ways your child was "fearfully and wonderfully made." Then during the week, affirm your child's gifts and personality traits.

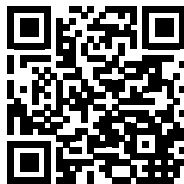
—Marianne Hering

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